

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
July 11, 2001

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Jack Bainter
Steven Campbell
Amy Clem
Sylvia Kiel
Ralph Komasinski
Alfonso Lerma, Jr.
Betty Martin
Dr. J. Douglas Nelson

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mike Kennedy
Rosetta Moses-Hill
Katherine Startin

Chairman Jack Bainter called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the Indiana Government Center-South, Conference Room B, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Vice-Chairman Kiel announced that a quorum of the Commission members were in attendance. A motion was made and unanimously approved to accept the minutes of the Commission meeting of March 14, 2001.

The Chairman announced that it was his pleasure to introduce a new SSACI Commission member, Mr. Alfonso Lerma, who will represent the First Congressional District.

Mr. Perlini announced that Dr. Jack Bainter is moving to Arizona and presented him with a Sagamore of the Wabash on behalf of Governor Frank O'Bannon. The Commission adopted a motion giving special recognition to Dr. Bainter and thanked him for his leadership and service to the Indiana student financial aid community.

Chairman Bainter asked Mr. David Perlini to present his Executive Director's report. Mr. Perlini stated that the State Board of Accounts just completed an audit of SSACI and that he was optimistic that there will not be any findings of any significance. He said the agency has also been conducting audits of all the regional offices of the Twenty-first Century Scholars program so funds will be consistent with state requirements. Mr. Perlini mentioned that the agency received a budget as requested with the exception of the National Guard program, which was under-funded.

Mr. Perlini announced that Governor O'Bannon made the following reappointments: Amy Clem representing the student commission member, Steve Campbell representing the tenth Congressional District, Mike Kennedy representing the fifth Congressional District and Ralph Komasinski representing the third Congressional District. Mr. Perlini stated some appointments will be modified when the new legislative redistricting goes into effect November, 2002.

The Chairman asked Mr. Vesper to speak about the final biennium budget approved April 30, 2001 and to report on 2000-2001 used awards for our major grant programs.

Mr. Vesper summarized budget documents for the Commission and said that for the 2001-02 academic year, the agency disbursed over \$110,000,000 to about 44, 000 students.

The Chairman asked Mr. Dennis Obergfell to speak briefly about the Grant Division's 2001 Award offers and eStudent. Mr. Obergfell said that the grant award notifications that were sent to students informs them that they can make school and address changes online through SSACT's recently developed software called estudent. He expressed optimism that this feature would help students receive revised awards due to school changes much quicker than if done by post or fax.

Chairman Bainter asked Nick Vesper to speak on behalf of the Special Programs division. He delivered the following report:

State Work-Study Program

Academic Year 2000-2001

Allocation	\$ 667,099.00	Student Workers 274 full-time & 170 part-time (summer)
Carryover	<u>332,901.00</u>	214 part-time (academic year)
Total	\$1,000,000.00	

Distribution	<u>(\$ 752,551.68)</u>
Remaining Balance	\$ 247,448.32

Academic Year 2001-2002

Allocation	\$ 667,099.00	Employers 297 (State, local, county governments
Carryover	<u>332,901.00</u>	not-for-profit organizations
Total	\$1,000,000.00	universities)

*Note: carryover is all monies in the program; including administration, award dollars and previous years rollover.

Nursing Scholarship Program

Academic Year 2000-2001

Allocation	\$400,000.00	Estimated Students Awarded 301
Carryover	<u>93,000.00</u>	
Total	\$493,000.00	

Distribution	<u>\$427,876.35</u>
Remaining Bal.	65,123.65

Academic Year 2001-2002

Allocation/Carryover	\$401,847.00
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Minority Teacher & Special Education Scholarship Services Program

Academic Year 2000-2001

Allocation	\$436,076.00	Estimated Students Awarded 283
Distribution	<u>383,609.13</u>	
Remaining Balance	\$ 52,466.87	

Academic Year 2001-2002

Allocation/Carryover \$598,234.00

Robert C. Byrd Scholarship Program

Academic Year 2000-2001

Allocation	\$852,000.00	Scholars 530 awarded 38 on leave or suspended
Disbursed	<u>794,278.50</u>	
	\$ 57,721.50	

Academic Year 2001-2002

Have not received funding from U.S. Department of Education

Have received 1,009 applications

Paul Douglas Teacher Scholarship Program

Collection: \$203,422.36

Dr. Bainter asked Pat Moss to give the Twenty-first Century Scholars update. Mrs. Moss introduced Russell Jackson from the U.S. Department of Education who is visiting our GEAR UP program site. Pat Moss presented the June report from the Enrollment Data Center citing the cumulative number of enrolled Scholars and affirmations for 2000-01. She noted that enrollments are up 10% from the previous year. Mrs. Moss presented the new application and verification process for 2001-02. Twenty-first Century Scholars has a new scholars support site in Evansville located at the University of Evansville.

Dr. Bainter mentioned at the last commission meeting he appointed a committee to work with staff on rules readoption process. Commissioner Kiel chaired the committee assisted by Commissioners Martin and Komasinski. Dr. Bainter called on Mrs. Kiel to present the report.

Ms. Kiel said the rules committee met by telephone conference on Monday, July 9 to discuss SSACI's proposed rules and regulations for the HEA/FOC, Twenty-first Century Scholars and Work-Study programs. She said that Mr. Dennis Obergfell participated in the telephone conference and that he gave the committee an update on administrative procedures associated with the promulgation process that included a review of the timeline and formatting rules. Ms.

Kiel reported that on June 22 Mr. Obergfell e-mailed a draft of the proposed rules to a subcommittee of financial aid administrators for review. This committee consisted of Bob Zellers, Ball State University; Steve Morris, Indiana University; Linda Handy, University of Indianapolis; Greg Leis, ITT; Victoria Goeke, Ivy Tech State College and Marvin Smith, Purdue University. Mr. Perlini, Nick Vesper and Mr. Obergfell met informally with the financial aid subcommittee on June 26 to discuss HEA/FOC, Twenty-first Century regulatory changes.

Ms. Kiel said that Mr. Obergfell characterized the discussion with the financial aid committee as productive and positive and that many of the suggestions made by the members of the financial aid community at the June 26 meeting were subsequently incorporated in the proposed regulations. She said that the proposed rules have since then been sent to the Legislative Services Agency for publication in the Indiana Register and a revised edition of the rules was sent to those who attended the July 26 meeting.

Ms. Kiel commented that the rules committee discussed some of the proposed rule changes and the reasons for them. She said that the rules will be published in the August 1, 2001 Indiana Register and that the official public hearing is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, September 6 at the Indiana Government Center South, Training Room 8. Ms. Kiel reported that the Commission would vote on the proposed rules on Wednesday, September 12 and that the tentative date the rules would become enabled is Tuesday, January 1, 2002. She mentioned that all of these dates are subject to change depending on the progress of the rulemaking process. Dr. Bainter thanked the committee and staff for its efforts to that process.

Dr. Bainter called on David Perlini to discuss the Child of Disabled Veterans (CDV) and Public Safety Officers. Mr. Perlini said that about a year ago the legislature assigned SSACI the responsibility to administer a group of programs that include the CDV and Public Safety Officers killed in the line of duty. Mr. Perlini stated those programs have some parallels and some differences in terms of what benefits the recipients include. He said that SSACI was assigned its responsibility because of some concerns raised by legislature constituents about irregularities or non-uniformity in the application of those programs when operated by individual schools

Mr. Perlini said the agency accepted the responsibility and engaged in almost a year long assessment how the programs were currently being operated in preparation for assuming responsibility for the operation on July 1, 2001. He commented that the transition process was not without its problems because of some long-standing but differing practices at some of the individual schools. He said that as of July 11, all but one of those issues have been resolved and that the only remaining issue relates to a definition of residency.

Mr. Perlini reported that a letter authored by himself and Stan Jones, Commissioner for the Indiana Commission for Higher Education is being sent on July 11 asking the presidents of the affected public institutions to adopt a proposed, standard residency policy for the purpose of this program only, so that a CDV student will be treated the same way and provided the same benefits at any publicly funded institution.

Mrs. Kiel proposed a resolution expressing support by the presidents for the state's request for consistency in residency determination of CDV applicants, to wit:

The Commission urges the presidents of the affected public institutions to adopt the proposed definition of residency outlined by SSACI and the HEC for the purposes of the CDV program only, so that eligible students will receive equitable treatment and benefits at every public institution of postsecondary education.

Dr. Bainter said the staff would prepare the resolution and forward it to the presidents of the universities.

The Chairman asked if there was any old business or new business. Mrs. Kiel thanked Dr. Bainter for being our chairman and commented that he would be missed. Mrs. Kiel expressed Dr. Bainter good will in setting up a new university. Dr. Bainter gracefully stated that this would be his last Commission meeting and he enjoyed his service very much.

The next Commission meeting will be held Wednesday, September 12, 2001 at Marian College.

With no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

State Student Assistance Commission of Indiana

By _____
Sylvia Kiel, Chairman

By _____
Mike Kennedy, Secretary